



# U.S. Embassy, Lusaka

## CONSULAR COMMUNICATOR



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### U.S. Elections Approach

With the U.S. elections only weeks away, it is an exciting time for political enthusiasts and an opportunity for us to showcase our engaging election process to our Zambian colleagues and neighbors. In the past few weeks we have been continually surprised by those who are familiar (and usually impressed) with our electoral system.

Although it is often more difficult to participate directly

in the election from Zambia (and watching the debates requires a good deal of bandwidth and caffeine), our distance has its occasional advantages.

As Mark Twain articulated, “Elections reflect the highest ideals of society, executed by the lowest means of human nature.” In this regard, we are fortunate to be shielded from the robo-calls, election mail, and questionable television ads

which accuse candidates of various degrees of mendacity.

To participate, though, we need our absentee ballots. By this time, registered U.S. citizens should have received them through the mail or by email, our preferred option. In this issue, please review the steps to take if you have not received your ballot. This Consular Communicator also shares concise information on Zambian immigration permits and a look at the new currency.

Vice Consul Brian Grandjean conducting U.S. voter outreach at the Blue Moon Café in Lusaka



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## Voting Information

**Absentee ballots already delivered to overseas voters:** Every U.S. citizen who requested an absentee ballot and selected the fax or email delivery option should have it by now. Please take steps to return your voted ballot promptly to ensure your vote will count. See instructions below.

**Returning your ballot by mail:** Place your completed ballot in a U.S. postage-paid envelope containing the address of your local election officials. Drop it off at the U.S. Embassy, and we'll mail it home for you without the need to pay international postage. If you cannot visit the U.S. Embassy personally, a friend or colleague can deliver it for you. If it is easier for you to use Zambia's postal system, ensure that you affix sufficient international postage and allow sufficient time for international mail delivery. If time is tight, consider using a private courier service (e.g., FedEx, UPS, or DHL) to meet your state's ballot receipt deadline.

Completed absentee ballots can be placed in the ballot box at the consular entrance of the U.S. Embassy during business hours. U.S. citizens are also welcome to submit completed ballots directly to a consular officer from 13:00 to 17:00 Monday through Thursday and from 08:00 to 12:00 on Friday. Consular officers will send your ballot to the United States via the diplomatic pouch.

**Returning your ballot by email, fax or upload:** Some states allow these options but may *also* require you to mail in the signed paper ballot. Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's website at [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov).

**Haven't received your ballot yet? Use the emergency write-in ballot:** U.S. citizens who requested an absentee ballot but haven't received it should go to [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov) to complete a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot. Follow the above guidance for returning your ballot. If you later receive your regular absentee ballot, vote and return it immediately. Local election officials will count just one ballot per voter, and will use the regular ballot if received by your state's ballot receipt deadline.



## Voting Information (continued)

**Forgot to register or request an absentee ballot? Act immediately! There are three options:**

**Option #1:** Register and request a ballot today using the federal post card application at [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov). Select the electronic ballot delivery option, include your email address (and fax number), and send it to local election officials in your state. Almost every state allows voters to submit ballots by email or fax. Once your application is processed, your ballot will be sent via fax or email depending on your state. To ensure your vote counts, vote as soon as you receive the blank ballot. Registration deadlines vary and some deadlines are as early as October 7, so check your state's requirements carefully.

**Option#2:** Follow the instructions in Option #1 but also complete and send in a Federal Write-in Ballot at the same time to make sure your vote is counted. This option may be the best one for first-time voters if your state requires you to submit your Federal Post Card Application by mail. Vote and submit your regular absentee ballot if/when it arrives. Local election officials will count just one ballot per voter, and will use the regular ballot if it is received by the ballot receipt deadline.

**Option #3:** Voters from the following states can use the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot as a combined voter registration form, absen-

tee ballot request, and absentee ballot: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia and Washington. (**NOTE:** The Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot must reach your local election officials by your state's absentee ballot request deadline or voter registration deadline, whichever is first.)

**Returning your Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot by email or fax:** The following states allow voters to email or fax their completed and signed Federal Write-in Absentee Ballots to local election officials: Arizona, California (fax only), Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, Washington and West Virginia. (**NOTE:** see instructions at [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov) for faxing or emailing your completed ballot.)



## Meeting with U.S. Citizens in Kitwe

On September 17, Consul Rob Romanowski met with U.S. citizen residents in Kitwe to discuss consular issues and to provide absentee voting assistance. U.S. citizens from Kitwe, Luanshya, Ndola and even visitors from the Democratic Republic of the Congo attended. The consular section coordinated the visit with the opening of the new American Corner at Copperbelt University where Rob discussed the diversity visa program to approximately 300 university students.



Ambassador Mark Storella at the opening of the American Corner at CBU, Kitwe

In accordance with the consular section's goal to further strengthen relationships with U.S. citizen residents and visitors, consular officers are planning to visit Northwestern and Southern province in the upcoming year.

During these visits we will meet with U.S. citizens and with key Zambian officials

who can assist us in resolving potential issues in the future.

As we make our initial plans for these visits, we always appreciate your input. Please send any suggestions or recommendations to [ACSLusaka@state.gov](mailto:ACSLusaka@state.gov).



Impact Band entertains Copperbelt University students at the American Corner opening



## Warden Reception in Lusaka

One of the most important responsibilities of our embassies is to assist U.S. citizens overseas. Volunteer wardens provide an invaluable service by disseminating Embassy information to U.S. citizen residents and by alerting the Embassy to potential security and safety concerns throughout Zambia.

On September 26, the Deputy Chief of Mission Stephen Schwartz hosted a reception at his residence with our volunteer wardens from throughout Zambia and commended them for their service and assistance. Officials from the Zambian Police Service, Drug Enforcement Commission, and Department of Immigration also provided remarks and information relevant to U.S. citizen residents and visitors. Later in this newsletter you will find some of the information that they shared.



Consul Rob Romanowski commending wardens for their service



The consular team at the warden reception

At the reception we were fortunate to recruit several new wardens from Lusaka and Northwestern provinces that will help us strengthen our network. Wardens' local knowledge and network of contacts are tremendously useful. We truly appreciate our wardens' generosity of spirit and their willingness to lend a hand to a stranger in need; it is commendable and inspiring.

If you or someone you know are interested in becoming a warden, please write to us at [ACSLusaka@state.gov](mailto:ACSLusaka@state.gov).

### **Zambian Officials Contact Information:**

Malcolm Malenga, Deputy Commissioner - Operations and Support, Zambian Police,  
Tel: 0211-251016

Joseph Kaluzi, Senior Assistant Commissioner, Zambian Drug Enforcement Agency  
Tel: 0211-25303

Enos Chibombe, Principal Immigration Officer, Zambian Department of Immigration  
Cell: 0977-618825

## New Vice Consul Assumes Role

As many of you know, Rob Romanowski became the new Consul in June. Replacing Rob as the new Vice Consul is Brian Grandjean.

Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Brian worked for ten years as a high school ESOL and Social Studies teacher in northern Virginia. Brian also served as a U.S. Peace Corps

Volunteer in Bulgaria and is fluent in Bulgarian.

A native of Long Island, New York, Brian enjoys swimming, bicycling, and reading about U.S. history. He will reside in Zambia until 2014 and looks forward to learning some of the local languages, making new friends, and seeing Victoria Falls.



Brian Grandjean is the new U.S. Embassy Vice Consul

## A Note from the New Vice Consul

Hello, everyone! I am the new Vice Consul, Brian Grandjean, and I am delighted to be here at Embassy Lusaka — my first post as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer. I am honored to be joining a stellar consular team with a well-deserved reputation for efficiency, integrity, and great customer service.

First, I recommend that everyone become familiar with the U.S. Embassy website and check out the many services we offer under Visas and Citizen Services. I find the information in these sections, including appointment hours and procedures, to be very clear and helpful and I hope you do as well.

Second, if you can't find the information

you're looking for on our website, please contact us by email and we will be happy to answer your questions. It may take until the next business day for us to reply (depending on the issue) but helping U.S. citizens remains our highest priority.

Finally, it was my privilege to meet some of our wonderful volunteer wardens at last month's reception in Lusaka. If you haven't already done so, I urge you to learn more about the warden program and to enroll in the Smart Traveler program.

If there is anything you think we can be doing better in the consular section, feel free to share your ideas with us. I am so excited to be here in Zambia for the next two years

# Zambian Immigration 101

Over the past couple of months, the U.S. Embassy has received several enquiries with regards to Zambian visas, work permits, temporary work permits, etc. This article provides guidance on some of these issues in the hope that the American community will be better informed. These are general guidelines and may not be applied in all situations. Particular requests will be treated on a case by case basis.

## ZAMBIAN VISAS

According to the Zambian Department of Immigration, a visa is an endorsement on a visa form or in a valid passport of a foreign national granting such person authority to **enter** Zambia within a specific period upon examination by an immigration officer at the port of entry.

The period of stay in Zambia shall be determined by an immigration officer at the port of entry. The validity of the visa is **not** the period in which the holder is entitled to remain in the country but a period within which the holder has to enter Zambia.

Gratis visas for officers accredited to Zambia should be obtained at Zambian Missions abroad or at ports of entry on presentation of letters of accreditation. Persons who are not accredited to Zambia can obtain visas at Zambian Missions abroad or at ports of entry upon presentation of official/diplomatic passports.

U.S. citizen residents often receive visitors from the United States or other parts of the world. These visitors come to the country as tourists. Tourists can be issued visas at any port of entry to Zambia or at a Zambian Mission Abroad **except** for those visitors coming from countries that fall under the referred visa category.

A referred visa is one given to nationals of certain countries where no Zambian Mission exists. The traveler will have to obtain the visa before traveling to Zambia from their nearest Zambian Mission or from the Department of Immigration in Zambia. Tourists are given 30 visiting days which can be extended up to a maximum of 90 days in a period of 12 months. For stays beyond the 90 free days, the visitor will need to apply for a Visiting Permit.

Business visitors are those coming to Zambia for meetings, conferences, arranging of business transactions, and the signing of contracts and includes:

- an overseas worker who is paid by an employer abroad or a volunteer who comes to Zambia for a short period to work, offer a service, install, erect, repair or service foreign made machinery or equipment;
- a person who comes to Zambia to advise on the development of new computer systems or information technology; or
- the provision of any service constituting advice, training or learning by observation or in a classroom.



Nationals coming to Zambia for business are entitled to a free 30 day business visa in a period of 12 months. These visas are issued at ports of entry or from Zambian Missions abroad except for people coming from countries that need a referred visa. Business visitors intending to stay longer than the 30 business days will need to apply for a Temporary Employment Permit.



# **Zambian Immigration 101**

For non diplomatic employees/visitors, visa fees apply as follows:

- Single entry—\$50
- Double entry—\$80
- Multiple entry—\$80
- Transit visa—\$50
- Day tripper—\$20

Visa fees are payable at the crossing).

## **EMPLOYMENT PERMITS**

Employment permits are issued to foreigners work-permit allows an individual Zambia while in employment permit. Application details for accessed from the Department listed below.

## **TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT**

This permit is issued to any business visitor intending to remain in Zambia for a period exceeding thirty (30) days. The period granted shall not exceed six (6) months in any period of twelve (12) months.

## **VISITING PERMIT**

The visiting permit is issued to foreign visitors who intend to ordinarily visit Zambia for a period exceeding ninety days. The current regulation is that ordinary visitors are entitled to a cumulative ninety (90) days visit within one calendar year. After the expiry of the initial free ninety days, if such a person wants to stay longer, they can apply for a visiting permit for a fee which will be valid for an additional ninety day period. Visitors should note that an application for a visiting permit must be done thirty (30) days before the expiry of the initial ninety days.

For more details on these visa and permits highlighted above, please visit the Department of Immigration website: <http://www.zambiaimmigration.gov.zm/>

**Compiled by Ferzio C. Mampwe**



port of entry (airport or border

sued by the Department of Immigration in Zambia. An employment permit to reside, enter and re-enter during the validity of the permit employment permits can be found on the Department of Immigration website

## **PERMIT**

business visitor intending to

# Zambia's New Currency



**BANK of ZAMBIA**

**Vision: To be a dynamic and credible central bank that adds value to the economic development of Zambia**

## GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT ON THE CURRENCY REBASING EXERCISE

The Bank of Zambia has already formally announced the 1st of January 2013 as the date for the changeover from the existing to the rebased currency. The rebased currency will become legal tender on this date (1st January 2013) and will accordingly be accepted as a medium of exchange and store of value in the Republic of Zambia.

On 4th September 2012, the Bank issued the Technical Guidelines to key stakeholders and the general public. The technical guidelines are the basis upon which commercial banks and other stakeholders will conduct business before and during the rebasing exercise.

In readiness for the changeover date of 1st January, 2013, all key stakeholders in this process are required to adequately prepare for the adaptation of all systems and infrastructure. In particular, and of great importance, is the adaptation of banking and accounting systems and calibration of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) to process the rebased currency.

The Bank of Zambia has now received images of the new Zambian banknotes and coins from the printers and minters. These images will form the basis for sensitizing the general public on the appearance of the new Zambian currency in order that all citizens are made aware of the appearance of the currency well before it

becomes legal tender.

The Bank has restructured the banknotes and has introduced the K100 and K2 denominations to the rebased family of banknotes. These two banknotes will constitute the highest and lowest value banknotes respectively. The rest of the old banknotes will have an equivalent in the rebased currency, with the exception of the K20.

It should also be noted that the value of the current K100 will be equivalent to the 10 Ngwee coin in the new family after rebasing. The old K100 should, therefore, not be confused with the new K100 which will be the highest denomination. In this regard, the Bank of Zambia wishes to make an earnest appeal to all members of the general public to be wary of any unscrupulous persons who may attempt to defraud innocent citizens of their hard-earned money. The rebased currency comprises a family of six (6) banknotes and four (4) coins. The bank notes are: K100, K50, K20, K10, K5, and K2. And the coins are: K1, 50 Ngwee, 10 Ngwee, and 5 Ngwee.

In terms of value equivalence: The old K50, 000 note will be K50; K20, 000 will be K20; K10, 000 will be K10 and K5, 000 will be K5. In addition, there will be a new K2 which has no equivalent in the existing currency.

In order to prepare the general public for the eventual roll-out of the

new currency on 1st January, 2013, a countrywide sensitization exercise is scheduled to commence next week. This sensitization campaign has been designed to cover the entire fourth quarter of the Year 2012 which will coincide with the physical introduction of the rebased currency on the market on 1st January, 2013.

Posters and other sensitization materials have been prepared and will form an integral part of the campaign. The materials prepared include:

- images of the rebased currency in banknotes and coins in the form of posters;
- the currency rebasing fact-sheet in English which has also been translated into the 7 major Zambian languages; and
- posters showing dual display of prices of goods and services, among other material.

This is a very important national undertaking. The Bank of Zambia, therefore, calls upon all stakeholders to ensure that the exercise is successful.

I Thank You.



BANK NOTES			COINS		
No.	OLD BANK NOTES	NEW BANK NOTES	No.	OLD COINS	NEW COINS
1	-	K100			
2	K50,000	K50			
3	K20,000	K20			
4	K10,000	K10			
5	K5,000	K5			
6	-	K2			
7	K1000	-	1		K1
8	K500	-	2		50 NGWEE
9	K100	-	3		10 NGWEE
10	K50	-	4		5 NGWEE
11	K20	-	5		-
			6	K10	-
			7	K5	-
			8	K1	-
			9	50 NGWEE	-
			10	25 NGWEE	-

